

## HOUSE.....No. 23.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 3, 1846.

*Ordered*, That the Joint Special Committee, to whom were referred the Resolutions of the State of Georgia, be instructed to consider the expediency of passing, in substance, the following Preamble and Resolution, as the sense of the people of this Commonwealth :—

*Whereas*, Three millions of men are held as slaves, by the laws of a portion of the States of this Republic—deprived of their inalienable rights—robbed of their humanity, and degraded to the condition of mere property ;—and whereas, the Slave-holding States have obtained, by the Constitution of the United States, a representation of this species of property, thus combining vast pecuniary interests and political power, giving them an undue and disastrous influence over the policy of the General Government ;—and whereas, the slave power, by a long series of aggressions upon the rights and interests of the freemen of the Union—has disturbed their commercial and business relations—has violated solemn treaties and involved them in wars with the aborigines—has restricted by unlawful and violent measures, the freedom of speech and liberty of the press—has imprisoned and sold into slavery some of their number, guilty of no crime, and made an appeal in their behalf, to the Supreme Court a penal offence ;—and whereas, by

a recent alarming assumption of unauthorized power, a foreign slave-holding nation has been forced into the Union, for the avowed purpose of upholding and perpetuating human bondage; thus compelling this Republic to assume the revolting and humiliating position, of legislating for Slavery and against Freedom, and, by the glaring wrong thus perpetrated, to forfeit all claim to the protection of Him, who has declared, that "*Righteousness exalteth a nation, and Sin is a reproach to any people;*"—and whereas, these repeated aggressions have put in jeopardy the predominance of civil liberty in our government, threatening its entire subversion; the issue is now distinctly presented to the people of the Free States, of an unconditional and pusillanimous submission, or a determined, constitutional resistance, Therefore,—

*Resolved*, That Massachusetts distinctly and solemnly announces to the country, her uncompromising opposition to the further extension and longer existence of American Slavery; that she hereby deliberately declares her earnest and unalterable purpose, to use every lawful and constitutional measure for its overthrow and entire extinction; and she here pledges her cordial coöperation to the friends of civil liberty throughout the Union, in every just and practical measure, that shall tend to free our country from the dominion, curse and shame of slavery, and make her great and glorious among the nations.



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